

Force Memo

Vol. 21 No. 1
Serving the U.S. Naval Reserve
June 2000

**Naval Reserve Force
Force Master Chief**

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**Naval Reserve Force
Ombudsman-At-Large**

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FROM THE FORCE

We've had a good year in the Naval Reserve Force despite hitting some bumps and potholes in the winding road along the way.

Our Leadership Continuum in Great Lakes was regarded by all respondents as "enlightening, encouraging and overall excellent." We visited Recruit Training Command and had solid dialogue with our first class of Non Prior Service Accession Course members.

Naval Standardized Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) was initiated with some...several...heck, a lot of challenges. Thanks to the dedication of our Full Time Support operations, we're moving forward and seeing positive results.

Initiation Season is here -- exercise good judgment and make the right calls. Use this time **until USN results are released** to do the following:

1. Assign sponsors
2. PT/Learn Cadence/Songs
3. Assign required reading - reports will describe how Honor, Courage and Commitment, or the lack of, contributed to the success or failure of the mission.
4. Get a jump on uniform purchases.

No Charge Books

No Formal Training

No Initiations prior to 16 September

Ensure activities with Selectees have more Genuines than Selectees in attendance. Make each evolution meaningful.

PRT NAVADMIN 063/00, can you believe that I haven't found a whole lot of support for the new Physical Fitness Assessment Program? I'm surprised too! Let me say in clear terms to each of the Command Chiefs what RADM Totushek and I have discussed.

We (the Naval Reserve) are not going to rush headlong into applying a new instruction at the expense of any Sailors. This is geared to our over 50 population. As Command Master Chiefs (CSC, CCs) you know your people better than any instruction. We are not going to wave the magic wand over our entire population and expect all to pass.

If you have Sailors who are 50+ and have not been accustomed to physical fitness training, I do not desire you to set them up for failure...that doesn't mean that I want you to ignore the standard.

Get your mature Sailors into a walking program with stretching and conditioning. Make page 13 entries if you feel compelled to note progress (or lack thereof).

We know that there are not enough hours in the day to accomplish all the training requirements that are levied and that physical fitness training will be on their own time as SELRES. I **DO NOT** desire to separate any Sailor who is giving an honest effort! Refusal to train is another matter...there is no Honor, no Commitment and certainly no Courage demonstrated when not seeking to improve.

EACH SAILOR IS IMPORTANT...and I'll stand with you (after discussion) on assessments you make. Ensure you involve your Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) and we'll arrive at the right decisions.



OMBUDSMAN CORNER

Yonna Diggs

Greetings from the Naval Reserve Ombudsman-at-Large. I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you during my travels throughout the year. The support and enthusiasm that you lend to the Ombudsman program is essential to the success of what we do. Though the Ombudsman's Program belongs to the Commanding Officer, much of the day to day support to the Command Ombudsman is provided by the Command Master Chief.

One of the issues that the Command Master Chief is often faced with is assisting in the recruitment of an Ombudsman. Many have tried putting the recruitment request in the Plan of the Month. Unfortunately, the word does not always get filtered to the spouse.

Here are a few tips for seeking the right candidate for your Command Ombudsman:

- 1. Send official correspondence to the home of the Reservist, addressed directly to the spouse that contain information about the program and a request to have interested individuals send a resume to the Commanding Officer or the Command Point of Contact.***
- 2. During Command Indoctrination, invite an Ombudsman from another Command to give an overview of the Ombudsman Program along with information that can be sent home to recruit interested spouses.***
- 3. Approach spouses who have been supportive and active in the Command.***
- 4. During Command functions that spouses will attend, announce that the Command is seeking an Ombudsman.***
- 5. Consult the spouses' clubs in your local area for information on possible candidates.***

It is important to find the right individual to assume the duties of the Ombudsman. This person must be professional in manner and able to work with the Commanding Officer and the rest of the Command Family Support team. Reserve Ombudsman Training should be scheduled as soon as possible, so that the Ombudsman will have the tools to effectively assist the families. The training schedule for the rest of this fiscal year can be accessed at



http://www.navres.navy.mil/navresfor/n1/ombud_training.html.

If you need further assistance in establishing your Ombudsman Program, please feel free to give me a call at (800) 675-5728 or you may reach me by voice mail at (800) 222-6000 Ext. 4568052.

Thanks for the outstanding work and support that you bring to the program. Keep up the great work!!!!

More Ombudsman Program Info

The Ombudsman Program Web Site is now available. Each of you is considered "Key Constants" of the program. A portion of the web site, for key constituents and "working page" for all of you and me is user ID and password controlled. The following are for your access: USER ID: Ombuds and PASSWORD: 1970z24.

Navigation to the site is as follows: if accessing through BUPERS INTRANET: click on NPC WEBSITE, at NPC WEBSITE, click on SERVICES, at SERVICES, scroll down and click on Fleet and Family Support and then scroll down and click on OMBUDSMAN AND KEY VOLUNTEERS. You are there!

If accessing from home or other location the initial site is: www.bupers.navy.mil and then, starting with SERVICES, follow path as outlined above. Also, if you are an AOL customer, please use Microsoft Explorer.

LIMITED DUTY OFFICER/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER PROGRAMS
submitted by NC1 Bruce Jorgensen

LDO/CWO programs provide officer technical managers/specialists who exercise leadership in key positions throughout the Navy.

Outstanding senior enlisted personnel may compete for a commission without a college degree through these programs. LDO's and CWO's comprise about 10 percent of Navy's Officer Corps. Top notch First Class Petty Officers are encouraged to apply for LDO, if eligible; Chief and Senior Chief Petty Officers are encouraged to apply for both the LDO and CWO programs, if eligible.

Master Chief Petty Officers can only apply for CWO. NAVADMIN 125/00 provides information on Navy's active duty LDO and CWO programs and solicits applications for the FY-02 commissioning year. BUPERSINST 1131.1A is the in-service procurement instruction for appointment under the active and reserve LDO and CWO programs.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CMC SELECTEES !!!

SKCM(SW) T. W. Davidson
YNCM (SW/AW) G. R. Eliopoulos
YNCM (SCW) T. L. Evans
AFCM (AW/NAC) M. R. Helm
AFCM (AW/SS) G. M. Hutchison
AVCM (SW/AW) T. L. Johnson
AVCM (AW) R. Kern

ENCM (SW) H. J. Marshall
HMCN (AW) D. S. McArtin
AFCM (AW) D. L. McCoy
PRCM R. J. Mickey
AWCM (AW/NAC) R. D. Millspaugh
AFCM (AW) G. L. Ogg
AFCM (AW) J. A. Ramsey
YNCM (AW) H. K. Ray
ETCM (SW) J. P. Rexford
AKCM (AW) D. S. Simpson
AOCM (AW) G. D. Thompson

INTERESTING SITES

Military.com www.Military.com

Navy/Marine Corps White Pages Directory

(N/MC-WP)

<http://sdiego.dir.navy.mil/cgi-in/loadSearchIndex>

CNET NEWS

Navy Advancement Center

<http://www.cnet.navy.mil/netpdtc/nac/neas.htm>

Hale Koa Hotel <http://www.secure.halekoa.com/elig.htm>

Information and Links to Various Government and Veteran's Organizations <http://www.caros.net/basye/vetlinks.html>

The American Legion <http://www.legion.org/backfact.htm>

Veterans Of Foreign Wars <http://www.vfw.org/home.shtml>

THE OTHER SIDE <http://thewall-usa.com/literary/camunes.html>

Navy College Program <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil/>

Armed Forces Vacation Club <http://www.afvclub.com/>

OPM Federal Holidays <http://www.opm.gov/fedhol/>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
<http://www.nasdva.com/>

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
<http://www.esgr.org/>

Our Flag

<http://home.flash.net/~skyangel/ourflag/ourflag.html>

Where Do You Want Your Flag Flown click Flags & Letters

<http://www02.clf.navy.mil/retcen/>

U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy

<http://wwwnt.cnet.navy.mil/SEA/>

Military City

<http://www.militarycity.com/newsroom/filelib.html>

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

<http://www.nera.org/>

Thrift Savings Plan

http://www.tsp.gov/forms/open_season_2000_05.pdf



A SEA STORY

Submitted by Tom McCarthy

The best compliment I ever received came from a CO I couldn't stand. He was a screamer. We called him "Leapin' Lyle," because he used to jump up and down while hollering. It would have been comical if I weren't on the receiving end of his tirades so often.

I was 1JV sound-powered phone talker on the bridge during general quarters and docking evolutions. The 1JV talker is responsible for passing orders from the CO or OOD verbatim, with the same stress and emphasis on each word. The 1JV circuit is connected with the ship's bos'n, line handling teams, the main engine room, auxiliary steering, damage control central and every station involved in operating the ship.

If the skipper screamed, "Tell those @#*@\$ deck apes to take a strain on number two line right \$%(@*#@ now!" I'd pass the word verbatim; yelling into my sound-powered phone just like the captain did in my ear.

I took a lot of grief on the mess decks because the guys on the other end of the phones, who were passing my word to their watch station bosses, were my peers and they took it kind of personally. I was continually calming them down--"Look, I'm sorry, it wasn't me calling you a brain-dead moron, it was the skipper, and he was chewing out your boss, not you."

The ship was an old cruiser, WWII vintage, nearly 900 feet long. It had an enormous superstructure, top heavy with antiaircraft weapons and retrofitted missile launchers. It was a nightmare to try to dock; single screw, slow to respond to rudder. We were on a six-month Mediterranean deployment, entering port in Palma de Mallorca, largest of the Spanish Balearic Islands, and on this day the wind was howling down from the north.

The harbor in Palma is man-made, with a piled rock breakwater, a narrow entrance and a long concrete wharf inside. All ports in the Mediterranean require the use of

native harbor pilots for docking, since they're familiar with local winds and currents.

The pilot boat met us outside the harbor and the pilot climbed up the Jacob's ladder. He made his way to the bridge and greeted the skipper and OOD. He seemed distracted and nervous. Now, no skipper likes turning the conn over to harbor pilots, especially if they have doubts at all about competence. Right away the skipper whispered in my ear, "McCarthy, I want you to listen to both of us and stay on your toes. I don't like this guy."

Most harbor pilots in the Mediterranean speak some English, and I knew a lot of Spanish, which was fortunate, because as we steered towards the harbor entrance the pilot was mixing languages. "Steer a la derecho two degrees. Muy bien, now apply todos revoluciones to the engines." The skipper was right in my ear, "What's he saying? What's he saying?" As we got closer to the entrance the channel narrowed. The wind was pushing us towards the rocks to starboard. The pilot started stammering in Spanish, and gesticulating wildly.

The skipper yelled, "I have the conn!" The pilot got mad and started yelling orders at me. The skipper told him to shut up. We were now in the throat of the entrance and I could see rocks just below the surface. "Left standard rudder full power all line handlers standby on port side with double lines damage control expect grounding OOD tell legal officer to contact the consulate because I just fired the #&^% pilot rudder amidships engines back full!"

I was screaming the CO's orders into the phone. He was dashing from bridge wing to wing and I was hot on his heels. The rocks were nearly beneath the keel and we braced for grounding as the skipper twisted the ship using rudder and engine. "Shotlines to the pier haul over mooring lines look alive dammit line number one to the pier over first bollard slack fantail line take a strain on amidships line tell that #&%^ boatswain to move for once in his miserable life!"

The screw passed within inches of the rocks as the skipper greased her into the wharf. The handlers cinched the lines and the capstans pulled us tight against the camels. We doubled all lines and were done. From extremis to snuggled up like a baby in a blanket. It was an amazing piece of shiphandling.

The skipper stormed off the bridge. The pilot slunk off the ship as soon as the brow went over. I stayed on the bridge as the engines shut down and my blood pressure went back to normal.

The skipper called me to his cabin that evening. As I entered and reported he just stared at me. I was getting nervous but then he spoke. He thanked me. He said that if I hadn't repeated every one of his orders as quickly, urgently and clearly as he'd given them, or if I'd panicked or gotten tongue-tied, the ship would have run aground.

He said I was just as important a member of the team as he was, and he wanted me on the bridge every time we got underway. As he dismissed me he said, "McCarthy, you've got nerves of steel." He was a four-striper, a combat veteran of three wars, and I was a raw seaman. That was the best compliment I've ever received.



PRT

submitted by PNCS(SW) Mark Gibson

To my fellow Command Master, Senior, and Chiefs,

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thoughts on the changes in the Physical Readiness Program and what we need to do to make it a more positive implementation.

The big changes to the program are the addition of those over 50 being required to take the test, but more importantly the method of scoring. Some of us are over 50 or we were one of those that did one of the activities to overcome deficiencies in another. There are two approaches to the program we may take 1) totally disagree and begrudge the implementation or 2) disagree/agree and actively support.

I can only hope and encourage that we take the second approach. Although we may have not had direct input to the changes we have always had input, whether we exercised that important capability or not was an individual choice. Now the program has been implemented. So now is the time to take the second approach even if we disagree. If you do disagree use the chain of command and attempt to change the policy, but the bottom line is to follow what our leaders have put forth to us to carry out.

The main reason for this note is that I ask each of you to take the lead role in establishing a good Physical Readiness Program. Leadership is by example and the confidence put in the Chiefs is truly demonstrated by the implementation of the Command Fitness **Leader** being a Chief.

Once again let's work at making this a positive implementation and express that by actively participating in a Physical Readiness Program. Take charge and thanks for your support.

USEFUL NAVADMINs

NAVADMIN 135/00 announces AUG 00 (CYCLE 067) Navy Wide Exams for Advancement in Rate for Reserve Personnel to Petty Officer Third Class through Petty Officer First Class. Provides information for the AUG 00-advancement exam for E4 through E6 Reservists. **A MUST READ MESSAGE.**

NAVADMIN 140/00 CAMOUFLAGE UTILITY UNIFORMS. Announces significant changes to Article 6801 and 6802 of the Uniform Regs. **ANOTHER MUST READ MESSAGE.**

D-DAY VETERANS HONORED

Submitted by: HMC(AW/FMF) Aurora Ruckman

It has been fifty-six years since American troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, but on June 6, 2000 New Orleans opened its heart to honor those servicemen that gave so much.

In typical New Orleans fashion, at least in my experience, the day started out gloomy. The chance of a thunderstorm dampening the parade looked good.

As I made way to the parade route, there was a feeling of excitement in the air. People anxiously awaited the start of the parade. Then you heard it, the sound of engines as the first round of planes flew overhead signaling the start of the parade. The clouds broke and the sun shined on what would be the most memorable commemoration I've attended.

I stood and watched as the procession moved slowly down Poydras St. People cheered, flags were being waved, women and children were running up to the vehicles to give the veterans flowers, but the greatest sense of pride I felt was when I rendered a salute to one of the Medal of Honor recipients and he returned the salute, I was in awe.

The closest I had ever come to a Medal of Honor recipient were the pictures that line the Honor Wall at Naval Hospital Great Lakes. What these men sacrificed and witnessed is something I couldn't begin to imagine.

As the parade ended and the crowd started to disperse I reflected on the emotion and gratitude that emanated from both the crowd and the veterans.

I believe Secretary of Defense Cohen summed up the atmosphere in his National D-Day Museum dedication speech.

"We are the heirs of your sacrifice, citizens of the world you made, and we can only stand in awe at your courage, at your sense of duty and the scared gift that you have offered to all people. To you belongs the honor of the day."

Those who have inherited the mantle of defense, the men and women of America's Armed Forces...carry on your noble work, preserving what you have created, defending the victories you have achieved, and honoring the ideas for which you struggled."

I have proudly worn this uniform for sixteen years. I reaffirm my oath and humbly accept my inheritance to support, defend, preserve and honor the ideals for which these remarkable men fought and died.

From The Chaplain
CAPT Eileen O'Hickey, CHC, USN, Force Chaplain
ohickey@cnrf.nola.navy.mil

The Navy Chaplain Corps has a vision: "We envision a future in which the lives of men and women will be strengthened and their spirits soar in the knowledge that there is a God who loves them and who ensures their worth and value."

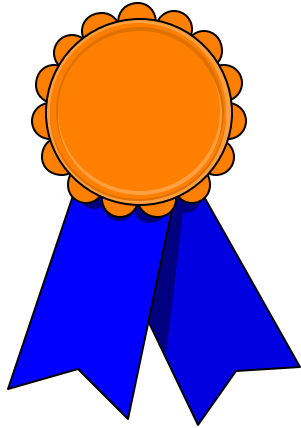
I recently heard a dad say that when he and his wife were at the door as their daughter was going out on her first date, the advice they gave her was, "Remember who you are." Wouldn't it be worthwhile for every sailor to remember that who he or she is is a beloved son or daughter of God? People who know their worth and value make better Sailors.

It is not up to chaplains alone to make this vision a reality. It is up to each of us to treat each other with the respect and dignity that is due to a beloved child of the divine author of the universe. When we can experience that for ourselves, we can pass it on to others. So, "remember who you are" and pass that on to others. Then the vision will become a reality.

2000 SOYs

The RSOY and SSOY Boards were tasked with making the difficult selection of RSOY and SSOY and I appreciate the hard work of the following board members and mentors.

AFCM(AW) Connally Bowling, VR-52 Willow Grove
AVCM(AW) Carl Goth, VR-54 New Orleans
HMCN Charles Kulp, NR Naval Hospital Bremerton Detachment
C, Salt Lake City
ISCM Paul Pappenheim, RIPO Area FIVE, Denver
CUCM(SCW) Larry Scott, NAVFAC, Washington
AMCS(AW) Dale Dixon, VR-59 Fort Worth
SKCS Gail Pellett, Cargo Handling Battalion NINE, Columbus



Congratulations to the finalists:

AT1(AW/NAC) David J. Edwards, VR-58, Jacksonville

EA1(SCW) Daniel C. Kerkman, NMCB 25 Fort McCoy

IS1(AW) Ozzie E. Nelson, NR Fleet Intelligence Training Center, San Diego

And to the 2000 RSOY, AMS1(AW) Wilfredo C. Pena, HCS-5 Pt. Mugu and the 2000 SSOY AT1 (AW/NAC) Michael P. McSweeney of VP-92 NAS Brunswick

***GOOD NEWS STORY AT NAF WASHINGTON
Submitted by YNCM McCarthy***

It was not a typical Sunday duty day for the two Sailors working the busy NAF Washington transient aircraft line. As they launched and recovered aircraft, AME2 Jared Spencer and AN Jeffrey Noe kept a wary weather eye on the western horizon. The forecast called for afternoon thunderstorms.

As the sky darkened, they quickly began double-chaining the parked aircraft. The rain came first; large drops that sounded like marbles dropped on the fuselages. The wind hit like a solid wall. The chock and chained T-44s began to lift off the ramp. Only the tie-down chains kept them from flipping over.

The rain and hail came horizontally now and it was almost impossible for the linemen to stay on their feet. Suddenly, a huge section of roof blew off the adjacent hanger. It sailed across the parking lot and landed in the perimeter road, blocking it completely. Rain began pouring into the NAF Medical spaces, soaking computers and delicate medical equipment.

As the Air Force security police pondered the wreckage, Petty Officer Spencer and Airmen Noe improvised. They drove a tow tractor from the ramp, hooked up some tie-down chains to the debris and pulled it out of the street, reopening it to emergency vehicle traffic. They then ran topside into Hanger 12 and began moving electronic gear away from further water damage.

Their quick actions that day saved multi-million dollar aircraft from certain destruction, re-opened the base perimeter road, and lessened damage to critical medical equipment from the Branch Clinic.

Local weather forecasters described the storm as one of the most powerful ever to hit the Washington metropolitan area, with winds in excess of 115 miles per hour. In addition to extensive building damage, hundreds of trees came down, and power outages were widespread.

On Thursday following the storm, the two Sailors stood at attention in front of the assembled crew of NAF Washington and were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals from Captain Craig Groom, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Facility, Washington for their decisive and innovative actions.

UNIFORM NOTES

SALT AND PEPPER UNIFORMS

The initiative to go to Salt and Pepper uniforms for E-1 through E-6...year round...goes before the next uniform board. Date TBD.

CLOTHING MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The Clothing Maintenance Allowance (CMA) for SELRES personnel E-1 through E-6 is going through the final stages of review, and will hopefully be acted upon before the beginning of FY-2001.

WORKING UNIFORMS OFF BASE

Submitted by: PNCM(SW) Garry McGrath

The recent change in policy regarding wearing working uniforms has raised a question in the Reserve community. I know working uniforms are not authorized to be worn in the

civilian off base restaurants. However, the Reserve community has a unique situation. Many reserve activities contract civilian restaurants and hotels to provide messing and berthing on drill weekends. The question becomes, "Since they are contracted messing and berthing, is it proper to treat these civilian facilities the same as a galley and barracks?" In other words, is it OK to wear authorized working uniforms back and forth to a contracted hotel or to a contracted restaurant during meal hours?

Prior to being here at NPC, I was CMC at a large Reserve activity in Jacksonville. When the galley shut down for renovations, we contracted restaurants to provide meals for our reservists. With the blessing of COMNAVBASE Jacksonville, we did allow our Reservists to go straight to and from the restaurant in working uniform. We also allowed them to go directly to and from their rooms at contracted berthing. I will also say that we made arrangements with the restaurants to have all our Sailors in one area.

I understand, under the purest interpretation of Uniform Regs, there are no provisions for eating at civilian restaurants in working uniform. However, this might be an instance where common sense would prevail.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There will be an ALNAVRESFOR coming out to announce openings on the National Naval Reserve Policy Board, a three year term for Master or Senior Chiefs. One opportunity for Aviation and one for general (Medical, Seabee, Intel, Security, etc.) For further info call YNCS(SW) Tom Vieira at 703-693-0392.

The Commander Naval Reserve Force Policy Board will convene approximately March 2001. All interested and proactive CPOs, SCPOs, and MCPOs are encouraged to submit for membership IAW the ALNAVRESFOR that will be released fall 2000. For further information call YNC(AW) Walt Rouxel at 504-678-8583.

Note: MCPO/SCPO and CPO Selection Board membership will be determined November 2000. ***SELRES MCPOs***...this serves as your first notice to get applications processed and in NLT 15 Oct 00. Use last year's format to PNCM (SW) Garry McGrath, Pers-862.

I'm anxious to have all communities represented in our selection process. If you'd like to sit on any of the advertised boards, please advise my office via your chain of command.

TAR MCPOS...notify PNCM(SW) McGrath (DSN: 882-4540) or me if you are **not** available for one or both advancement boards. Garry and I plan to give ample opportunity for each Master Chief to serve on a board. (Read...if you haven't served on one yet, standby!)



SENIOR ENLISTED ACADEMY
Class Schedule for FY01

<u>Class</u>	<u>CLCVN</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>App</u>	<u>Due</u>
95	03Jan01		31Oct00	
96	15Mar01		31Oct00	
97	23May01		31Oct00	
98	01Aug01		30Apr01	
99	01Oct01		30Apr01	

Would you like to instruct/facilitate at the Naval Reserve Senior Enlisted Academy (R/SEA) at NSA, New Orleans? Classes will convene semi-annually, for 15 days each session.

Some prerequisites:

- Exemplary Military Bearing*

- Able to lead physical fitness exercises
- Internet/e-mail capable
- Able to commit for certification training IAW CNET and SEA

Contact CUCM (SCW) Larry Scott for more information at 504-678-1133. E-mail: mclgscott@aol.com

REMINDERS

Honor, Courage and Commitment.

United States Naval Reserve Medal of Honor Recipients is a recent publication highlighting our finest Sailors. Contact my office for a copy.

Force Master Chief Retirement Letters and Chief's Retirement Creeds are available upon request. Provide:

Name Rate/warfare (**include name member goes by**)
 Years of Service
 Location at which member plans to live (if available)
 Spouse's name (if available)
 POC telephone number and command mailing address

E-mail requests to mattheji@cnrf.nola.navy.mil

Please make every effort to submit requests at least three weeks in advance of retirement date. Advise my staff of any short-fused situations, and we'll do our best to accommodate your requests.

VFW CALLING CARDS - If you have units ready to deploy, contact my office with dates and we'll send you a batch of free 10 minute calling cards.

FAREWELLS

AVCM (AW/NAC) MIKE GENSCH, VP-64

AWCM (AW/NAC) MIKE WALSH, RATCEN

BMCM (SW) MIKE BOOZER, NSA New Orleans

ACCM (AW) ENOCH LUNA, NAS New Orleans

ASCM (AW) DAVE CAMPOBOSSO, CNARF



Tribute to a Chief Petty Officer

(Delivered by LtCol A. F. Weddington, U.S. Marine Corps on 09 June 2000 at 1400 at First Presbyterian Church, Branchville, N. J. as part of religious services and full military honors. Officiating: Reverend Carl Luthman.)

EULOGY FOR BTC ROBERT A. SOMMER, U.S. NAVY (RETIRED)

Chief Petty Officer ROBERT A. SOMMER, U.S. Navy (Ret)---"Bobby"---to all of us.

HONOR

COURAGE

COMMITMENT

These are the core values of the United States Naval Service and each of these values reflected in the life of Bobby Sommer.

Bobby retired after 20 years of active military service to our great country. It is because of Bobby and people like him, those who have worn or currently wear our nation's uniform, and the many personal sacrifices these men and women make, that our country is great. More than 10 years of Bobby's time in the U. S. Navy was served during the cold war. He logged extensive time at sea and on foreign shores, often in harm's way keeping the bad guys in check. Few things help to keep the peace around the world more effectively than the mere presence of U. S. Navy warships and their embarked Marines. These forces are always ready---visible around the globe---even as we gather here today to pay respects to a fallen comrade in arms---as a reminder to all that we will use this power to protect our nation's interests in the event diplomacy fails. Bobby's duty as part of these forces was not easy. He was a boiler technician---a snipe as they are commonly called in the Navy. His was a hot, sweaty, dirty, dangerous job in the bowels of the ship. A far from glamorous job but one essential to keeping the fleet at sea. And this was the field Bobby served in throughout his career---with complete dedication and great pride. He was very good at it.

Several years before retiring, Bobby was promoted to the rank of Chief---an elite group in the enlisted ranks. There is no other rank quite like it in the world. Simply, Chiefs are the teachers and role models for young Sailors and the seasoned trainers and advisors for young officers. Regardless of which side you fall on---young Sailor or young officer---you learn quickly to never argue with a Chief. Their experience makes the Navy. So when around a Chief it's best to just listen and learn. In fact, there is a phrase that rings throughout the Navy--- "ask the Chief". Bobby was everything one would expect when conjuring up an image of a Chief---extremely competent in his field, a teacher, street smart, just a bit salty from sea-travel around the world with colorful stories to prove it, and a little rough around the edges. The rank of Chief does not come easy and Bobby certainly worked hard for this culminating achievement in his Navy career. Twenty years of faithful service and Bobby retired with Honor...the first of the core values.

In 1993, at the young age of 38, and ready for the challenges of a new phase of his life Bobby's military retirement physical revealed that he had Parkinson's disease. How could this be? But, Bobby never asked "why me" and he never gave up. Though medically retired with 100% disability, Bobby was determined to one day return his medical retirement to the U.S. Navy---he wanted a regular retirement once he had beaten Parkinson's---and he was determined to beat Parkinson's. All who know

Bobby fully realize the past seven years were not easy for him. Nor were they easy for his family and friends. It's extremely difficult to watch a loved one labor over the simplest of activities associated with daily life---but Bobby persevered---despite heavy doses of medication and a disease that continued to progress and try to beat Bobby's will to beat it.

Not too many weeks ago an opportunity came along for Bobby to undergo a leading edge surgical procedure. One with promise of not curing Parkinson's but countering the effects of the disease and giving Bobby a far better quality of life---he leapt at the chance. Bobby wanted to "live" and this surgery provided hope. So, Bobby's untimely death is indeed tragic. Bobby himself said several weeks after the surgery that even if hit by a Mack truck it was worth all he had endured and he would do it again. Bobby lived life, especially during the seven years of his battle with Parkinson's, with Courage, the second of the core values.

Despite Bobby's extremely serious illness the past couple of weeks, he never gave up. He fought until there was nothing left in him and the wonders of modern medicine were exhausted. We can all take comfort knowing that Bobby received the finest medical care available. The highly trained and skilled team of doctors and nurses were true professionals and most compassionate providing the absolute best of care to Bobby---he never suffered. Bobby's Commitment, the last of the core values, to the Navy and beating Parkinson's was unwaverable.

To the very end of his life Bobby reflected the core values of the United States Naval Service.

Honor

Courage

Commitment

On Saturday evening, 03 June 2000 at approximately 1920 (7:20 pm) with his wife, Nori, sister Linnea, and I by his side, Chief Bobby Sommer received his final set of orders---and as any good Sailor would---he obeyed them---he reported "home". Bobby can finally rest. A verse of the Marine's hymn states that if the Army and Navy were to look on heaven's scene they would find the gates are guarded by United States Marines---you can bet not only is Bobby in the very best of hands but he is eternally safe. Bobby did his duty. Now it is our duty to ensure Bobby's spirit lives on. God bless you Bobby Sommer. All will miss you.